

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of May 25, 2005 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 9 - 16 were reexamined and they have been rejected as follows:

(1) Claims 9, 11 and 12 as anticipated by Ichino under 35 USC 102(b); and (2) Claims 10 and 13 - 16 as unpatentable over Ichino in view of Feller under 35 USC 103(a).

These two rejections are a repeat of the rejections made against claims 9 - 16 in the Office Action of February 16, 2005. Accordingly, these rejections have been made final.

After careful consideration of the invention described and claimed applicants have decided to combine claims 9, 15 and 16 and to cancel claim 14. Accordingly, rejection (1) noted above has been rendered moot. There remains for consideration the rejection based upon 35 USC 103(a). To the extent that this rejection has been applied against the combination of claims 9, 15 and 16, applicants respectfully traverse the examiner's conclusion that the invention as defined by the combination of claims 9, 15 and 16 is unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a).

Claim 9 as now amended recites not only the structure shown on Figure 4, but the structure also shown in Figures 6, 7 and 8. The portion which includes the pipe segment 61 is able to be fitted to pipe segments 17 and 19, for example to replace the pressure differential sensor. However, this is not the sole difference of the invention over the prior art. Claim 9 is now amended (which includes the subject matter of previous claims 9, 15 and 16) recites a housing (which may be housing 63) and cable connector 83 for connecting the sonic- or ultrasonic transducers is recited. Also included are the threaded bores (which may be the threaded bores 77 and 79 shown in Figure 7). Placing the cable connectors 83

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between the threaded bores 77, 79 (Figure 8) allows for mechanical and electrical connection in one location and avoids the necessity for a separate additional cable connector. This is a very advantageous feature of the invention, where space from mounting to housing 63 is limited.

The present invention, therefore, must be viewed as more than a mere replacement of a differential pressure sensor. It is that, but it is more, both structurally and functionally. This "more" has always been claimed and is now combined in claim 9 as amended.

The examiner, therefore, is urged to reconsider the final rejection of claims 9, 15 and 16 and to find claim 9, as now amended, allowable along with claims 10-13 which depend from claim 9 as amended.

Alternatively, the examiner is urged to enter the amendments to the claims for purposes of appeal.

Respectfully submitted



Felix J. D'Ambrosio
Reg. No. 25,721

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BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane
Fourth Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683-0500
(703) 683-1080

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